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# SO, YOU'RE LEAVING STATE EMPLOYMENT...



***The  
Revolving  
Door  
Prohibition***



# SO, YOU'RE LEAVING STATE EMPLOYMENT

While working for the State, you may have gained knowledge, experience and contacts that are valuable to employers in the private sector. There's nothing wrong with that. But state law strictly limits the kind of work situations you and family members living with you can accept in the private world for a year after you make certain decisions as a state employee.

## Consider the following hypothetical case:

*Mary, a manager at a State agency, approved a contract for her agency to purchase \$300,000 of office furniture from FurnCo. FurnCo was one of three bidders on the contract, and while FurnCo's bid was not the lowest, it was close and Mary explained that she preferred the styles and colors offered by FurnCo. Six weeks after the contract was signed, Mary quit her job at the State agency and was hired as a vice-president at FurnCo.*

Perhaps Mary truly believed that FurnCo's product was best for her agency. On the other hand, Mary may have awarded the contract to FurnCo in order to secure a future job with FurnCo.

In order to avoid even the appearance of impropriety in cases like Mary's, the General Assembly enacted two "revolving door" prohibitions.



## THE REVOLVING DOOR PROHIBITIONS

These prohibitions forbid state officers or employees, or their spouses or immediate families living with them, from accepting compensation for one year from any person or company directly affected by certain decisions made by the state officer or employee.

These prohibitions apply when state officers or employees, in the year prior to termination of State service:

- 1) participate "personally and substantially in the decision to award State contracts with a cumulative value of over \$25,000"; or
- 2) make regulatory or licensing decisions.

In Mary's case, for one year after Mary quit her job with the State of Illinois, neither she nor her spouse nor immediate family members living at home may accept employment from FurnCo (or its parent or subsidiary).

*Consider a second hypothetical case:*

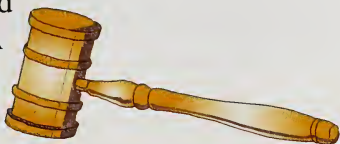
*Ray is a State officer who voted to approve the construction of XYZ Hospital. Three months after this vote, Ray's appointment expired and then his 19 year-old son, who lives with him, accepted a job as an analyst at ABC, Inc., parent company of XYZ Hospital.*

The revolving door ban does not permit Ray, Ray's spouse or Ray's immediate family members living at home to receive compensation from XYZ Hospital or ABC, Inc. for one year after Ray left State service.



## PENALTIES

If Mary or Ray's son knowingly receives compensation from these prohibited employers, he or she may be found guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.



## WAIVER

Former or current executive branch employees may seek a waiver of the revolving door prohibition from the Executive Ethics Commission. The Commission requires the person requesting a waiver to file a petition and two letters supporting the petition. One letter must be from the ethics officer of the State agency. The second letter must be from the prospective employer. For further information, contact your ethics officer or the Executive Ethics Commission at (217) 558-1393.

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# OTHER PROHIBITIONS

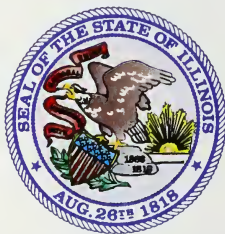
In addition to these revolving door prohibitions that apply to every State employee and officer, other prohibitions specific to your agency or position may affect your ability to accept employment after leaving the State. Contact your ethics officer for further information.

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## EXECUTIVE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Illinois  
401 S Spring Street  
403 William Stratton Building  
Springfield, IL 62706  
Phone: (217) 558-1393  
Fax: (217) 558-1399

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